GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:736
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the high incidence of pesticide contamination amongst the agricultural product;

(b) whether any complaints have been received from the foreign countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agency has been asked to maintain supervision and control over pesticide contamination in agricultural produce;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the most common pesticides which remain as residues in farm produce?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (c): Sir, some consignments of grapes exported to countries in the European Union and chillies exported to USA, European Union and Australia were found to contain residues of Quinalphos, Ethion, Chlorpyriphos, Trizophos and Cypermethrin pesticides.

(d)&(e): Various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA)and the Rules framed thereunder are administered by the Ministry of Health & FamilyWelfare. The Food (health) Authorities of the States/UTs are responsible for the enforcement of the provisions of the Act to keep supervision on the presence of pesticides residues in different food commodities including agricultural produce.

(f): DDT, BHC, Endosulfan and Chlorpyriphos are the most common pesticideswhich have been detected in farm produce due to their misuse or non-observance of waiting period mentioned on the approved labels/leaflets accompanying the certificates of registration issued by the competent authority.